

Hunting and Trapping

Emergency Order

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 03-03-16

Issued at: Fairbanks, Alaska
June 7, 2016

Effective Date: 12:01 AM
July 1, 2016

Expiration Date: 11:59 PM
June 30, 2017 unless
superseded by subsequent
emergency order

CORRECTED

EXPLANATION:

The Board of Game adopted framework bag limits for ptarmigan in Game Management Units 12, 20, and 25C and delegated authority to the department to adjust bag limits within this framework based on population trends. This emergency order adjusts bag limits for regulatory year 2016–2017. In addition to this emergency order, adjusted bag limits are printed in the 2016–2017 Hunting Regulation Book No. 57.

This corrected version removes the “general hunt only” language for resident hunters.

REGULATION:

Therefore, the following regulations in **5 AAC 85.065(a)(3), HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR SMALL GAME**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for hunting ptarmigan:

| Units and Bag Limits | Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts) | Nonresident Open Season |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| ... | | |
| (3) Ptarmigan (rock, willow, and white- tailed) | | |
| ... | | |
| Units 12, 20, and 25(C) | | |
| 20 per day, 40 in possession | Aug. 10-Feb 28 | Aug. 10-Feb 28 |
| 5 per day, 10 in possession | Mar. 1–Apr. 30 | Mar. 1–Apr. 30 |
| ... | | |

All other ptarmigan hunting regulations remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Doreen Parker McNeill
Management Coordinator

JUSTIFICATION:

To ensure adequate protection of the ptarmigan population and to optimize hunter opportunity, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game takes into account population status and trend and the amount and timing of harvest. In Interior Alaska ptarmigan populations exhibit large fluctuations in abundance largely in response to weather and predation.

Harvest impacts ptarmigan in different ways depending on their abundance. Studies conducted in Alaska and western Canada indicate harvest has little impact when populations are high. However, harvest can have significant effects when populations are low, especially in late winter after most other sources of mortality have declined or if resident breeding birds are taken. Based on recent survey data and hunter observations from the Interior road system, ptarmigan populations appear to be increasing in abundance. Despite the recent increase in abundance, late season bag limits and season dates for ptarmigan in Units 12, 20, and 25C will remain as stated

in this EO. This will ensure that populations of ptarmigan that are easily accessible during the breeding season are not overharvested.

Managing ptarmigan seasons and bag limits based on population trends allows both the greatest hunting opportunity during population highs and adequate protection when there are few birds.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution of this Emergency Order is to the following list. Copies are available from the Department of Fish and Game office in Fairbanks.

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 - e. Area Offices, Statewide
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 - v. Fairbanks
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 - vii. Mat-Su
 - viii. Minto-Nenana
 - ix. Tok Cutoff-Nabesna Rd
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10. ADF&G Public Communication Section
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14. Federal Office of Subsistence Management
15. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
16. Yukon-Charley National Preserve
17. Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge
18. US Bureau of Land Management
 - a. Anchorage
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19. Tanana Chiefs Conference
20. Ahtna
21. Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments
22. Dot Lake Village Council
23. Northway Village Council
24. Tetlin IRA Council
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26. Eagle Trading Post